

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/615,597

Examiner

Laura B. Rosenberg

Applicant(s)

MULLER ET AL.

Art Unit

3616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendments filed 03 August 2005, and 18 August 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 24-43.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE

1. This office action is in response to the amendment filed 03 August 2005, in which claims 1-23 were canceled and claims 24-43 were added, and the amendment filed 18 August 2005, in which claims 30-33 were amended.

Drawings

2. The drawings received on 03 August 2005, are acceptable.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 24-43 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The allowable subject matter in claims 24 and 34 is the inner surface of the first layer being scored along the run of the tear seam to define a weakened region of the first layer, in combination with other features of claims 24 and 34, respectively. Ueno et al. disclose an airbag cover comprising a first layer substantially intact in the region of a tear seam for airbag deployment, which borders on a space in which an airbag deploys if the need arises, and a second layer attached to an inner surface of the first layer and able to reinforce the first layer, the second layer having a weakened region able to determine the run of the tear seam should the airbag deploy, the inner surface of the first layer provided with holes along the run of the tear seam that are able to define a weakened region of the first layer, the weakened region of first layer extending in a sinuous or zigzag manner and the weakened region of second layer extending linearly,

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the first and second layers secured together by an adhesive, the weakened region of the second layer being comprised of a recess, and a third layer attached to the second layer and provided with a weakened region coincident with the weakened region of the second layer. However, Ueno et al. do not disclose the inner surface of the first layer being provided with scoring along the run of the tear seam.

The allowable subject matter in claims 29 and 39 is the specific configurations of the weakened regions of the first and second layers, in combination with other features of claims 29 and 39, respectively.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sugiyama et al. disclose an airbag cover comprising multiple layers, one layer having two components that meet to form a zigzag or sinuous configuration, and another layer having a liner configuration.

Kreile discloses an airbag cover comprising multiple layers with various tear seam configurations.


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Friery et al. disclose an airbag cover with a top layer that does not have a tear seam or weakened region, and a bottom layer with various tear seam configurations, including sinuous, zigzag, and linear.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura B. Rosenberg whose telephone number is (571) 272-6674. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:00am-3:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on (571) 272-6669. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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LBR


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